

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2012

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 P.M.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC SESSION

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Traficante, Mrs. Ruggieri, Mrs. Culhane, Mr. Bloom, Mrs. McFarland and Mr. Lombardi.

Attorney Cascione was also in attendance along with the Administrative Team.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Ruggieri and seconded by Mrs. Culhane and unanimously carried that the members convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws:

1. PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel:

a. (Discussion of Certified Administrator A's Settlement Agreement)

2. PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation:

a. Contract Negotiations' Update – Secretaries)

b. (Supreme Court Appeal of Administrator B)

c. (Volunteer Policy Update)

d. (Legal advice as it relates to certain budget matters, legal use of surplus (if any) and potential for litigation

Call To Order – Public Session was called to order at 7:27 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted and the roll was called.

Roll Call – The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Ms. Iannazzi reported that no votes were taken during Executive Session.

Executive Session Minutes Sealed – October 15, 2012 – A motion was made by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mr. Bloom to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – September 12, 24, & 27, 2012

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Culhane; the roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements / Communications – There are none.

Chairperson's Communications – Ms. Iannazzi will hold for now.

Superintendent's Communications

Good Evening. At last week's work session, which was conducted on October 10th, Mr. Balducci reported on a projected deficit due to an increase of 13 out-of-district student placements for our students who receive special services. The approximate cost being \$700,000. Obviously this is an issue for us and it needs to be addressed. That being said, under my direction, I requested that the School District put in place, immediately, a spending freeze on all non-essential expenditures including materials, supplies, and non-essential personnel. This will remain in place for the remainder of the fiscal year. Financials will continue to be monitored with the goal, obviously, that our budget savings will be realized so that we can make sure we have a balanced budget at the end of the physical/fiscal year. I wanted to make you all aware of that.

School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Lombardi – Thank you Madam Chair. I hope that this committee would indulge me on two issues that I have currently that I'd like to speak of to which I can tell by the leaves on the ground that it's fall; but I can also tell by the comments that are being made publically and throughout by our colleagues and by those that latch on to our colleagues. Press releases – it is truly the silly season and hopefully on Nov. 7th we can all get back to the business of taking care of the children of Cranston and protecting the children of Cranston and educating the children of Cranston. I feel compelled to discuss two issues tonight: One being the Transportation issue because it's apparent that there has been some innuendo and some suggestion

that some of us on this School Committee have done things inappropriately with respect to the Transportation issue. I'm here to tell you that it is emphatically false, untrue and done for the best of political reasons. On October 12th of 2011, the Cranston Herald reported that the school buses contract was extended for two years. At that time, those members of the School Committee that were present voted to approve it unanimously. As Mrs. Ruggieri had aptly stated in the Herald at that time, we would have lost additional money by waiting to ratify that contract. So as you see, the privatization issue is coming before us; I have accommodated Mr. Bloom in the meetings that he has requested including but not limited to the work session that's devoted exclusively to Transportation on October 29th, 2012. In addition to place, for whatever reason, the matter of 12-10-01 on tonight's agenda; I will chair that meeting and that portion of the meeting and I will do so transparently and without any issue. When the Transportation issue came up in 2011 the issue of privatization developed. At that point, we were looking for a target date of December 2011 to come back with a report. That report did not come. It did not come because of my efforts to quell it or efforts on behalf of anyone to quell it. Keep in mind that the Transportation Sub-committee was made up of two Council people, three School Committee people, members of Central Administration and Laborers' representation. Some of those meetings could not be had because of schedules of different folks but it went forward. In the interim this School Committee saw fit to vote to extend the Transportation contract by two years. It did so with the following stipulations: that

there was a freeze in their pay; that there was a cost share increase; that there was a plan change design; that there was a change in their vacation schedules; resulting in a \$766,000 savings while we waited for the privatization report. Which, I might add, given the report findings, as of October 2012, means that the soonest privatization will take place is September of 2013. Ironically, the transportation contract with our union ends on June 30th 2013. Everything is on schedule to discuss privatization; to discuss the pros and cons of privatization and to go to our union and seek concessions from our union. Critical in that discussion about transportation, as I have stated numerous times, is the fact that you cannot unilaterally privatize while negotiating a contract. RI Law and the case law that's interpreted RI Law has ruled that throwing privatization upon a union while a contract is in place and while negotiations are taking place is deemed to be an unfair labor practice, which would expose us to significant legal course. What this School Committee did in 2011 is save the district $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars while the sub-committee, which I chaired, was able to meet and through the efforts of Mr. Bloom and through Mr. Balducci and those at Central Administration were able to generate a report that's been submitted to the School Committee. That report represents the best evidence of what the savings will be. That report does not represent what the savings will be. It is the best evidence of what the savings will be. What needs to be done is due diligence now, you need a new RFP; you need a new discussion about privatization and then you need to negotiate with your unions as well. So for anyone to suggest on this School Committee or

anyone in the public at large to suggest that there was a conflict of interest on anyone's part is insulting; is defamatory and is just plain wrong. The last time I checked "conflict of interest" usually meant that someone would benefit from something. No one benefited here. That's my first point.

My second point: I got to be here 15 minutes late because contrary to popular belief, I have to practice law for a living and I have to pay bills. It was brought to my attention that once again press releases are being thrown out from under our nose from behind our backs before we even get to respond. It's my understanding that Ms. Arditti from the Providence Journal has a press release from our Mayor quoting our colleague, Mr. Bloom, that somehow our report of a surplus of \$130,000 for last year is really false and misleading and wrong and whatever the words are that were being used. In fact, ladies and gentlemen, what happened was that the auditors have now looked at years prior Medicaid reimbursements and have deemed them uncollectable. Most importantly the auditors have not determined how to handle that \$400,000. It's very simple to jump out into the media to issue press releases for immediate release so that the world thinks that we're all bad guys and that shame on us for saying we had \$130,000 surplus. Well, we have a \$130,000 surplus and to quote Mr. Balducci, "We had a \$1,988,356 of internal budget savings that we achieved last year. And, we also have paid off the \$1.5 million debt that was due to be paid this year. So, the question that still remains is how to treat this \$400,000 and whether it will be

treated as an offset against the \$130,000 thereby resulting in a potential \$270,000 deficit. No one pulled the wool over no ones eyes and people jumping the gun with press releases all the time is indicative of the silly season. Please...take it from your elected officials, we're doing our job here to help the children of Cranston; to do what we're supposed to do and Joe Balducci, who is right there, who will confirm it, is meeting with Mr. Strom, the Mayor and the auditors on Wednesday on how to deal with this issue. I don't know who is putting the cart before the horse but whoever's issuing press releases is doing just that. So don't believe everything you read all the time. Maybe after November 7th we'll all get our senses back and everyone will go back to normalcy again. Thank you very much.

Mr. Bloom

I have two comments. I'd like to address the same issues that have been raised. In reference to Transportation, we have met on October 10th. Just about all of the information that Mr. Lombardi expressed is correct. We met; we had discussions about the Transportation Report; we have agreed to have a work session on October 29th and begin the discussions on how to move forward. Most importantly, Mr. Lombardi's comments are correct in that there's a process that the School Committee has to follow regarding this particular issue. The report that was issued represents the best available information on what would have happened two years ago when we were considering this. It is not a report upon which the School District can make a decision. The RFP is two years old. Number two; we don't know what our bargaining groups may offer. The process moving forward

is such that we need to go out for a new RFP with third party suppliers to transportation services; we need to open up negotiations with our bargaining group and we need to develop an RFP for purchasing buses internally which is something that was never done originally prior to the formation of the Transportation Sub-committee.

Mr. Lombardi is also correct that in October of 2011 this School Committee did vote to adopt and extend the contract with the laborers, our bus drivers, for a period of two years. However, what he didn't mention, and it's something that I strenuously objected to back in May of 2011, was the formation of the sub-committee in the first place. Leading up until that point in time, there had been no financial information provided to the sub-committee regarding the procurement of buses internally. If you may recall, Mr. Zisseron proposed that information and provided it to us in June of 2011 after the sub-committee met. And, if you recall, the City Council passed a resolution asking the School Committee to perform a 10 year study. They didn't ask us to form a sub-committee to perform the study. They didn't ask us to bring in members from the City Council. They didn't ask us to bring in members from the laborers or other entities. That was a decision that this School Committee made itself. Once that sub-committee was formed, I worked diligently; met with Mr. Balducci; met with Mr. Zisseron to pull together much of the information that was presented to the sub-committee at our first meeting in September. We could have had a report prepared by the School Committee within 3-4 months. Ultimately, and I've been accused of politicizing this process, what politicized the process was

the formation of the sub-committee because what we would have had was a report that had been prepared by the School Committee for everybody in the City to tear apart, critique, and come to the best decision that we can on how to replace our buses and provide transportation services to our students. It's very unfortunate that it took 16 months for the sub-committee to meet. Mr. Lombardi is correct; there were many opportunities but many members couldn't make it. There was one stretch where it was a period of 5 months in which we could not meet. When we finally met in June, August, and September we were able to finish things. We are now at the point, the same point that we were two years ago when this process was started. If you may recall, we really didn't get to evaluate on how to make a decision until May. It's mid-October. The holidays are upon us; an election is looming; its budget season right after the first of the year and that makes it difficult to turn our attention to this particular issue. It is very difficult to predict at this point, what is going to be the best way of replacing the buses. I'm not talking about delivering a service; but the buses themselves. We have to go out and find out what is available. This is a process that's going to take time. What I urged my colleagues to do last week on October 10th which I was unsuccessful in doing so, was get a commitment to an action plan on how to move forward here. My colleagues are correct; this process has been politicized. The only thing I can do is use my powers of persuasion to motivate the rest of my colleagues to move forward with this as expeditiously as I can. That is what I had hoped would happen last week but my colleagues decision was that they wanted to

study the report so that we could come up with a plan. It's my feeling that we could be moving and my belief that we can be moving forward in these directions in parallel. We have a report but right now all of the data in it has to be replaced. We have an RFP that needs to be updated with everything that we have learned over the last 16 months. It was my hope that we would at least be in a position to start the process. Unfortunately, that has not occurred and I have deferred to my colleagues desire to have a meeting on October 29th to discuss the contents of the report. It is my hope that one of the things that comes out of that meeting is an action plan on how to move forward because June 30th will come very quickly; it will be here before we even know and frankly if we want to be replacing the buses with something newer, I would hope we would have four to six months for either ourselves internally or a third party supplier to procure buses to fulfill our needs.

Regarding the information that was reported by the Mayor today that the financial statements; the information as reported by the School Committee is mis-stated; in early August, I was asked by the Chair to meet with PCG, they are the providers of the Medicaid reimbursement services for us. They prepare the claims and submit it to Medicaid for reimbursement. In June everybody on the School Committee received some notification that we were going to be booking a receivable in the amount of \$500,000 for Medicaid reimbursements for 2011-12. We had been concerned leading up to that point in time as to what the actual revenues were going to be for the Medicaid

reimbursements. In August after Ms. Iannazzi asked me to meet with PCG, I arranged to meet with them on September 10th. I was unable to meet with them directly but I spoke with them over the phone and in my conversations with them, I could not get the numbers to jive between what they told us they had collected and what the City had reported as collections for the School Committee. I asked Mr. Balducci to look into it and when I returned from my business travels the third week of September; we met again to discuss it. That information was presented to the Chair on Thursday in terms of my concerns and what needed to be addressed. This is an important issue. The accuracy of the financial information that was presented by the City to the School District is important. It is what leads to credibility; it's what leads to trust and confidence that management knows where it's at. I'm sure my colleagues are going to be critical of me after I've had a chance to speak. Some of the comments that I have made to the public; those are my responsibility and if I am judged to have been incorrect, then I will bare the responsibility. What I want to clarify is in August 2012, I was critical of the resolution that this School Committee presented about re-payment of a surplus. I was critical mostly because I felt we should not have been crowing about it. I felt, I believed and still believe at this time, that it was....I don't want to down play the efforts of this School Committee or any of our bargaining groups to bring those costs in line. But, the single most important reason for which we showed a surplus last year is because our Health Insurance accounts had a 15% favorable variance in the amount of \$2.5 million which wiped out any of the deficits we

had in all of our other accounts. That is not something that can be counted on. And yet, my colleagues felt that it was important to tell the public on how good a job we had been doing and how we have a surplus and that this is what was important. At the meeting, one of my colleagues here questioned whether or not I was politically grandstanding. Personally, I have a financial background; I have sat, not in this particular organization, but sat in Mr. Balducci's position and provided financial information for people to make decisions and rely upon. I believed and still believe to this day that that was not the proper action for the School Committee to be doing. To be talking about how good a job we had done when we had been lucky and as a minor footnote; the numbers have not been audited. Now it turns out that that's not the case. It turns out that there were misstatements; there were some errors in the numbers as reported and there will be some adjustments to the numbers. Mr. Bloom at this time mentioned an old joke about accountants noting that there are many ways of presenting financial information. All of which are legitimate. The important thing is that the information that is presented is presented so that it's transparent and people know what it is. At the end, regardless of what the spin is on how this is handled, whether we borrow monies from the settlement we just had with the City (\$900,000) or whether or not we call this a prior period adjustment or a current period; the numbers are different. The reason it matters is because it goes to judgment. I was accused; I was questioned for political grandstanding but the real question is, "What was the rush to go and present this as a surplus to the City?" I'm sure everyone

here can answer that question. My colleague already answered it. It's the silly season. The committee wanted the benefits of showing a surplus and getting the credit for it. If we had waited until October, that would have been the proper thing to do; but instead we wanted to jump to the facts; jump to a conclusion and the unfortunate thing is now, which has not been addressed, is that it means we now have to change what we said two months ago and that is not something that we want to be doing. You, parents, the tax payers; you should have confidence that when we tell you something that it is supported and that they are transparent and correct.

Mrs. Ruggieri

Addressed a few things brought up by Mr. Bloom. First of all, we haven't been given the final audit. Mr. Balducci hasn't had a chance to meet yet with the proper people to discuss this issue. Unfortunately information was put out in the press and a statement was given by Mr. Bloom before this committee sat down to meet and discuss it and understand what was going on and understand what the next steps were. Jumping ahead on making commentary is unfortunate in a lot of instances and unfortunately it's been happening a lot lately. Right now we're dealing with the Transportation issue and the Transportation Sub-committee. One of the things I keep hearing is "best available data" or "best available financials". I'm going to disagree for a couple of reasons. One is the information that was given to the sub-committee two years ago, is now two years old. We've actually gone through a couple of budgets

since that time. And, we have the actual numbers from those budgets. What I don't understand is, if you're doing a ten-year study, which I think is a little out there for something like transportation when there's no way of projecting what gasoline prices are going to be or oil prices, etc. If you have the opportunity to use actual numbers why wouldn't you use those actual numbers? What happened two years ago, is that we were given three sets of numbers: one from our internal department one from the laborers' auditor and one from First Student. At that time, when this sub-committee was formed, I had requested on record that it would be great if someone could take these three sets of numbers and give us the real numbers from them. Seventeen months later, still no real numbers; actually one of the sets of numbers was kind of ignored; one set of numbers wasn't addressed at all; and the set of numbers that was used were the numbers from two years ago that are no longer even accurate. At no point did Mr. Bloom come to this committee or even approached his own sub-committee and say, "This is not the way that we should be going; this is not the direction that this sub-committee should be heading in; I believe that we should be doing this". At no point did we hear that. What we did hear was in September 2011, Mr. Bloom in the minutes, applauded Mr. Lombardi and myself for negotiating this contract that saved the district with the union, \$766,000. That we heard. What we did hear on October 25th, 2011 was Mr. Bloom's article in the Cranston Herald where he then said he would have a report for us by December of 2011. We didn't get a report until October 2012 and now we're being told that the report really doesn't

hold any water because those numbers are two years old. My question is, "If 17 months ago, you started this process and you realized that the numbers that you were using weren't right and you realized the way you were going about it wasn't right, why anybody wasn't told?" Now all of a sudden, and it is the season, I tend to not go that route in my own elections; I don't feel the need; I feel that if I can't win on my own merit, then I probably shouldn't be running at all.

So I don't really involve myself in any of this nonsense unless I feel the need to defend myself, which I recently had to do because of my colleague's comments. I feel that what should have happened didn't happen and now fingers are being pointed at the rest of this committee when we were waiting for information; we were waiting for direction; and because we had said when Mr. Bloom gave us this report in October of 2012 and then said to us, "I want this on the Agenda" and we said to him at that time, before October 10th, we believe that this issue really needs to have its own meeting and we'd like to have a separate Work Session. We said that to him. He did not want that. We put it on an already burdened work session agenda and that was explained to him; there were issues that had already been put off and that it was going to be a long meeting and we did not believe that we could give this the time that it needed. It still went on the agenda and it did come up in conversation and we did have a very heated discussion. His idea of a plan of action did not correlate with what I felt was a plan of action. I read all of these reports and I have questions about these reports and I don't think that we can move forward until we discuss these reports. That is how I work. It's part

of the plan. Part of the plan has to be, “What are we working with?” If you’re giving us bad information, I’m not starting off this plan with bad information. That’s just going to make this process go on longer and we don’t need it to go on any longer. I think that what I would like to see from this point forward is this committee being able to discuss these issues and focus on the issues and work on the issues and not have to respond to erroneous information time and time again being released. Thank you.

Mr. Bloom

I just want to let everybody know, to repeat, there is a work session scheduled to discuss the Transportation Report, in detail, so please come and attend and all the questions we hope will be answered. If not then we will find answers to them so that we come to the best decision that we can for the School District and the City.

The chair, at this time, was turned back over to Ms. Iannazzi.

Mr. Lombardi

I just want to clarify that that was the first available meeting that we’ve afforded this committee to take up the Transportation issue by itself. Thank you.

Mrs. McFarland

I would just like to say, for the record, that I have told this committee time and time again that my personal schedule does not allow me to

attend any Work Session meetings on Wednesdays until December; until such time. My colleague was well aware that I would not be available last Wednesday. I will be available at the next sub-committee for the Transportation for a work session on Monday, which is the 29th and I will be able to attend that. But, I have made it very clear. We also, just for the record, I just want to make sure that the sub-committee for Transportation also set up an agenda. At no time did any of the people who served on the sub-committee, including the ones that were mentioned, disagree with the agenda. I put the agenda together myself and asked everyone to take a look at it and to add to it and to let me know if they had any concerns with any of the items that I had posted on that Agenda. At that time, there was none so why we went through this process; we've all given of our time; we've all attended these meetings, as many as we can, and I continue to want to focus on Transportation and make sure that we make the best possible decision whether or not we continue with in-house busing or if we privatize busing in the City of Cranston.

Public Hearing

- a. **Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) – There were none.**
- b. **Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only) – At this time, Ms. Iannazzi**
handed the chair over to Mr. Lombardi due to speakers subjects being
Transportation issue.

Mr. Tomlins, 400 Farmington Ave., Cranston

Ms. Lundsten, at the last session I sat in on, although I had some reservations, I thought that was spectacular. You were straight on. I've been in management a lot. In order to accomplish what you want to accomplish, you have to have teams; you're the head of those teams and they report to you. That is absolutely the best thing that I've heard in a long time and I thank you for that. First of all, I think the title of this committee certainly shouldn't be non-political. I think that's about as big mis....I've ever heard. Frank, I got to tell you that he who protest too much; there's a problem with that. You're speech was a wonderful political speech and yet you're complaining about the speeches. I've heard that over and over again. Second of all, I don't think Mr. Bloom is the chairman of this committee. There are seven of you up there. I've served on committees and if you have a problem you have a right to go to the president and say, "Look, I don't think so and so doing this right or wrong, etc." You pull it together. This thing has rolled around like an old cloud for three years. I don't know when...I guess what you said Frank is, the contract has to expire before you could....you couldn't put in privatized during a contract. I misinterpreted that ...then I want to know why two years ago, we didn't continue. I don't blame Art or anybody in the business of negotiations for unions doing the very best they can for....that is their job; but it's also your job to be the counter lever to that. You were not since I have followed this. I've got here...I don't care what anybody says...I got all the donations

made by the different individuals. McFarland, if I had your donations from labor, I'd be the Mayor today so don't tell me, Frank, that everybody's pure in this because I'm not pure; you're not pure; nobody is pure up here. That....the problem is everybody except Mrs. Ruggieri; she's the one who apparently doesn't go that route with only \$200 through June 30th, which was put into your account. Mrs. Ruggieri noted \$2,008. Mr. Tomlins: Let's be clear here. The Mayor wouldn't be sitting in that office if it wasn't for the police union. There is absolutely no question about it. Let's not try to tell the public that you're sitting up there like a bunch of pure angels and there's no influence ever. That is not human; that is not how the system works. And nobody, nobody can tell me that because it just can't be correct. If you study anything about human nature; if you know anything about psychology like I do, you're all influenced day by day. It just may be a conversation on the corner; it may be somebody telling you something you haven't heard before so you start to take it under consideration. Folks, do your job.

Sean Gately, 14 Owl Court

I'm here to speak on behalf of Transportation and also like to address the deficit issue as well. Mr. Lombardi, you made an earlier statement about it is the "silly season". I don't call it the "silly season"; I call it election season. I call it a time in our lives right now and times in our community where we have to make very serious decisions about the future direction of our community. I don't call that silly; I call that serious. If you're going to run for election and you're going to run for

office, your track record needs to be examined. “It just happens to be what it is”, to quote Mr. Bloom and Mr. Balducci. On those little financial advertisements that they have the past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results but in real life most of the time it is. Currently we’re sitting here in a school system, as of right now, that we’ve had three law suits that were lost that cost us \$700,000; we’ve had \$11 million in deficits in the past six years; we have \$6.4 million in debt; we have deficits after deficits; we’ve cut music; we’ve cut sports; we’ve cut multiple programs from our system; we’ve got questionable campaign contributions that come out six days after votes are taken. There are a lot of things that we have a right to examine as we go through this “Silly Season”. The silly season is what silly is what’s happening here again. First we see Friday; we have \$700,000 deficit because of the special needs students; thank you Dr. Lundsten for your quick action in freezing spending. Who is going to get hurt by that? The laborers are going to get hurt by that; the students are going to get hurt by that; those other none essential costs that we currently have. We in Cranston are at a point where almost everything is non-essential and is at the point where the kids might not even have to come to school any more at the rate that we’re currently going. Therefore, yes, you all should be held accountable for what has happened. It’s not about excuses; it’s about results. That as a taxpayer and as someone who is also running for office; that’s all I’m asking for is that at some point in time let’s stop saying it’s their fault; stand up, take a leadership role; take responsibility for what the situation is and let’s move on. Don’t complain about it. You

all decided to step into public life; when you're in public life, you're record gets examined. If you can't take it then don't run for office.

The other thing is that it's time that we have to take accountability for what goes forward. Going through the "silly season". The silly season is what causes people to go out with press releases about how great of a surplus we have; except in the minutes, Mr. Bloom, who's been accused of many things this evening, stated very clearly, "Guys, you shouldn't do this; this isn't a good idea"; there might be other things that come up". I've won P & L's. I understand that. When I have a budget process I have to try and get the best numbers I possibly can. Sometimes I don't reach them. If I worked in the professional private environment and didn't hit my numbers for six straight years, I'd be unemployed. That is the fact of the way it is. As a tax payer and a parent of a child in our school system, enough is enough; let's get it right. Thank you very much and have a great evening.

RESOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY MR. BLOOM

NO. 12-10-01- Whereas, the City Council requested by resolution that the Cranston School Committee conduct a thorough study of the economic consequences of privatizing its school bus operations, that the School Committee analyze the experience and economic consequences over five to ten years in other communities that have

privatized their bus operations and disposed of their fleets,

Whereas, the School Committee formed a Transportation Subcommittee in May 2011 to conduct the study as requested by the City Council,

Whereas, the Transportation Subcommittee has met and formally adopted a Transportation report on September 27, 2012, representing the Majority opinion of the Subcommittee,

Whereas, such Transportation report includes a 10 year financial analysis on the costs associated with replacing the School District's fleet of buses and the costs and benefits of outsourcing its transportations services versus maintaining the services in house,

Be it resolved, that the School Committee accepts the Transportation Subcommittee's Majority Report in satisfaction of the City Council's resolution and as the best financial analysis available for the School District's options for replacing the bus fleet.

Ms. Iannazzi reported that she is recusing herself from the Resolution above, No. 12-10-01.

Mr. Lombardi assumed the chair at this time. Mr. Traficante also stated that he is recusing himself from this resolution.

Mr. Bloom

With the School Committee having a Work Session scheduled for the 29th of October, I'd like to move that the committee table the above resolution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Culhane. With there being no discussion, the roll was called:

Mr. Bloom - Yes Mrs. Ruggieri - Yes Mrs. Culhane - Yes

Mrs. McFarland – Yes Mr. Lombardi – Yes

Recused by Ms. Iannazzi and Mr. Traficante

At this time the Chair was given back to Ms. Iannazzi.

Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

The proposed Consent Agenda this evening are Resolutions: 12-10-02, 12-10-03 with addendum, 12-10-04, 12-10-5, 12-10-6, 12-10-7 with addendum, 12-10-8 with addendum, 12-10-09, 12-10-10 with addendum, 12-10-11, 12-10-12, 12-10-13, and 12-10-14.

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri and voted unanimously to pass these resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

NO. 12-10-02- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, said certified administrator be appointed as follows:

Sandra Matoian-Heard, Special Education Administrator

Pupil Personnel Services

Contract Effective Date...October 29, 2012

See Attached Financial Impact Analysis

NO. 12-10-03 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2012-2013 school year:

Deana D'Anjou, Step 6 +CAGS

Education...RIC, BA, URI, CAGS

Experience...Blackstone-Millville Regional School

Certification...School Psychologist

Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...October 29, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12817040 51110

John Christy, AEP Instructor

Education...Rollins College BS and RIC, Masters

Experience...Cranston Public Schools

Certification...Secondary Social Studies & Science

Assignment...AEP .5 FTE

Effective Date...October 15, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...16213120 5110

Kristen Buonanno, Step 3

Education...RIC, BA

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Secondary English

Assignment...Cranston West .6 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12612340 51110

Michael Karikas, Step 2

Education...URI, BS

Experience...Chariho School Department

Certification...Music K-12

Assignment...Itinerant .6 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12512410 51110

Ashley Pagliarini, Step 2

Education...URI, BS

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Health & Physical Education K-12

Assignment...Itinerant .2 FTE

Effective Date...September 10, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12012430 51110

Maryann DiBattista, Step 10 + Masters

Education...SUNY, BA, URI, MA

Experience...Lincoln Public Schools

Certification...Reading Specialist K-12

Assignment...Rhodes 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11713200 51110

Lauren Hopkins, Step 3

Education...North Carolina State

Experience...North Providence Substitute

Certification...Secondary English

Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11312340 51110

Barbara McIntosh, Step 5 +Masters+30

Education...BU, BA, Sacred Heart, MAT

Experience...Connecticut Schools

Certification...Reading Specialist

Assignment...Private Schools, .5 FTE

Effective Date...August 31, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...50925121 51110

NO. 12-10-04 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Gail Pecchia, Elementary

Jocelyn Feldman, School Psychologist

Marlene Barrientos, Science

Sara Demars, Elementary

Jill Bixby, Special Education Elementary/Middle

NO. 12-10-05 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:

Justin Erickson, Head Freshman Football Coach

CHSW

Stipend (\$100.00)

Playing Competition-High School

Experience-Volunteer Basketball Coach-Cranston East

Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

Glenn Castiglia, Head Coach Wrestling

CHSE

Step – 7

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Wrestling Coach-Woonsocket School Department

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

Josh Procaccianti, Head Coach Wrestling

CHSW

Step – 5

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Cranston Public Schools

Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

NO. 12-10-06 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:

Jesus Berrio, Assistant Coach Girls' Indoor Track

CHSW

Effective Date...September 21, 2012

Gerard Marzilli, Head Freshman Football Coach

CHSW

Effective Date...October 5, 2012

NO. 12-10-07 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

Hope Rose, 3 Hr. Teacher Assistant

Eden Park

Effective Date...October 8, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11846010 51110

Petrina Parente, Job Placement Specialist

AEP

Effective Date...October 15, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...16246160 51110

Walter Cook, Bus Monitor

Transportation

Effective Date...October 1, 2012

Authorization...New

Fiscal Note...11845090 5110

Amparo Guzman, Child Outreach Screener

ECC

Effective Date...October 16, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...57590155 51110

NO. 12-10-08 -RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed

as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Alejandro Estanislao, Custodian

Richard Phillips, Custodian

Donald Bruen, Bus Driver

Anthony Buono, Bus Driver

Diane Gentile, Secretary

Jamie Bruno, Bus Driver

NO. 12-10-09 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Deborah Scienzo, Secretary

CHSE

Effective Date...October 12, 2012

NO. 12-10-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Karen Harrop, Teacher Assistant

Edgewood Highland

Effective Date...October 1, 2012

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

NO. 12-10-11- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

1. Sharon Piscitelli, Grants Fiscal Manager, to travel to Watertown, MA from

November 12, 2012 through November 16, 2012 to attend the Grantsmanship Training Program, at no cost to the School Department

and no substitute needed. All anticipated expenses to be covered by

Title II funding. Please see attached Backup.

2. Aimee Duarte, teacher at Cranston Area Career & Technical Center and

approximately 19 students to travel to Orlando, FL to attend the Otronicon

Conference from January 18, 2013 through January 21, 2013, at no cost to the School Department. Please see the attached “Field Trip of Long

Duration” form.

3. Scott Maynard, teacher at Cranston High School East, and approximately

45 students to travel to Washington, DC from January 20, 2013 through January 23, 2013 to attend the Presidential Inauguration, at no cost to the

School Department. Please see the attached “Field Trip of Long Duration” form and backup.

NO. 12-10-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Dress Code Policy (#5132) be approved for second reading (see policy attached)

NO. 12-10-13 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2012-2013 Cranston Public Schools Organizational Chart be approved. (See Attached)

NO. 12-10-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM GRADES K-6, be approved for first reading. (Curriculum binder on file in the Curriculum Office, Briggs Building-Cranston Public Schools, 845 Park Ave., Cranston, RI)

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

CHANGE TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-10-03

FROM: Deana D'Anjou, Step 6 +CAGS

TO: Deana D'Anjou, Step 11 +CAGS

ADD TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-10-07

Heather Perez, Bus Monitor

Transportation

Effective Date...September 14, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11345090 51110

ADD TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-10-08

Pasquale Celeste, Bus Driver

ADD TO RESOLUTION NO. 12-10-10

Eliseo Rojas, Custodian

Plant

Effective Date...October 19, 2012

The committee voted unanimously to approve the above Resolutions.

Dr. Lundsten

I'd like to address #12-10-02 please. Tonight we've appointed a Special Education Administrator, Sandra Matoian-Heard, Sandy would you please stand. Congratulations!

We're delighted to have you join us. Sandy has worked with us before and I can tell you she's an outstanding administrator. I'm delighted to have her join us.

We also have a retirement tonight and I don't know if Deb is here tonight. She is not. Deb Scienzo was a secretary at Cranston East and she was employed by us for 10 years and we certainly appreciate her service to us and her service to Cranston East and her commitment. Thank you so much.

Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Tomlins

I want to advise the chair that I usually; I'm coming with my military hat from now on and if the chief has to take me off the podium, he has promised that person will have to outrank me so I can salute him before I leave.

I'm going to go back to some things here. It's like having 7 people up there all working in another way. Mr. Bloom, you're now the intellectual Steve Stycos, apparently. That comes from Edgewood, I guess. When you were saying, "I will personally try to persuade you". Everybody says it to me. There's a big smirk on your face and people smiling. Let me tell you something. In my career that's how you make progress. You take what you think is right and you try to get the other people to adjust to it. If they don't adjust to it and you think you're right; you still pursue it. If you got something that you want this committee to handle or devote on or to complete or to put into the record, that's your job. We've got to see more leadership on this council. The bus thing never should have gotten to this point. I hate to keep going back; but I still do folks; I still do. I still run boards and let me tell you something; no board of mine would ever run this way because I wouldn't allow each individual making their own comments about an issue. I didn't hear one person say they were going to get together on this and going to do what is right for the City. That's what's correct. What's right for the City and the students? I hear a lot of words condemning what one person said and what another person said. You're acting like a bunch of school

kids even though you're a school committee. Stand up for what you believe in. Say what you believe. Don't let meetings go by for six months or something like that and then make a complaint about it. Go right there to that lady.

Ms. Iannazzi noted, with all due respect to Mr. Tomlins, he knows that she has recused herself from all matters regarding Transportation. She asked that he please stop referring to her as the Chairperson of the committee. Mr. Lombardi chaired the committee not Ms. Iannazzi.

Mr. Tomlins

I'm not talking just for the bus committee. You're the most silent person up there and you're supposed to take the leadership road so that you don't allow this. What I say when I'm up there, "I'm sorry Mrs. Ruggieri or whoever it is; we heard what you had to say, now we're going to move along". You don't make progress by letting everybody make speeches. That's all I hear. Most of them are self-serving. They're all defending their actions. That's all I hear. This is a disorganized group. You're not going to do the job. It's only the students. When you talk about a best contractor; any contractor what is the bottom line? If it's reasonable; if you can do it, it has to be done. You not only had the \$700,000 that you have to work out, which is going to be ayou're going to have other surprises; you know that. Thank you.

Announcement of Future Meetings – October 29, November 14 and November 19, 2012

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this committee tonight, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Culhane. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank S. Lombardi

School Committee Clerk

Students Policy #5132

Dress Code

Dress Code Policy

Clothing, insignia, buttons, jewelry, labels, signs or other items which materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of our schools, materially

disrupts class work or involves substantial disorder or invades or impinges upon the rights of other students shall not be worn, carried, or distributed on school property.

Policy Adopted: Cranston Public Schools

Resolution: Cranston, Rhode Island

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2012-2013

| NAME | POSITION | Department | ANN | SALARY |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV | | | | |
| BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Matoian-Heard, | Sandra Spec | Ed | Admin PPS | 61,561.50 |
| 16810 1105 33 | 8,625 96 0 893 | 27,561 | 89,123 | |

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

| NAME | POSITION | Department | ANN | SALARY |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV | | | | |
| BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Matoian-Heard, | Sandra Spec | Ed | Admin PPS | 91,463.00 |
| 18491 1182 33 | 13,655 96 0 1326 | 34,784 | 126,247 | |

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

NAME POSITION Department ANN

SALARY HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV

BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Matoian-Heard, | Sandra Spec | Ed | Admin PPS | 91,463.00 |
| 20340 1300 33 | 14,433 96 0 1326 | 37,528.07 | 128,991 | |

*** Based upon 175 days in position in the fiscal year**

RESOLUTION NO. 12-10-

CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - Dr. Judith A. Lundsten-270-8170

Elementary Principals/Hearings

Emergency Management

Curriculum

Raymond Votto- 270- 8153 Jeannine Nota-Masse – 270- 8178

Joseph Balducci – 270-8198

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | CHIEF | OPERATING | OFFICER | ASSISTANT |
| SUPERINTENDENT | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | | | |
| Athletics | Curriculum | Business | | |
| Employee Benefits | Secondary Principals/Hearings | | | |
| Energy Management | | | | |
| Food Service | Homeless/Indigent Students | Medicaid | | |
| Human Resources | Summer School | MIS | | |
| Payroll | Social Studies/English Curriculum (K-12) | | | |
| Plant/Transportation | | | | |

Technology Services 504 Coordinator – Students WB

Health Board of Directors

Guidance

Rtl

RTTT

**Vacant – 270-8467 Cheryl Coogan – 270-8137 James Dillon
– 270-8089**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES STUDENT INFORMATION
SERVICES
& DATA MANAGEMENT**

**CEAB CRP Behavioral Program
District/School-Wide/Staff Data
Directors ELL/Literacy/AEP Curriculum Director of Early
Childhood Programs Management & Analysis
Program Supervisors Grants Early Childhood
Programs Attendance
504 Coordinator – Students Professional Development ESY
Programs Central Registration
Secondary Principals/Hearings Program Development
IDEA Student Information System
Library Rtl Nursing Special Education**

Census

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| PBGR's | Special Projects | Out of District |
| Placements | State Reporting | |
| PDI | Program Supervisors for Related | |
| Services | Non-public/parochial Textbooks | |
| Titles I – III | Related Services Providers | Special Ed |
| Census | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Wellness Committee | SEAC | 504's – Employees |
| Tutoring | Special Education Administrators | |
| West Bay Board of Directors | | |
| Special Education Census | | |